



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

Motorcycle Crash and Fatality Facts

- In Washington, there are 163,304 active motorcycle registrations and 298,202 individuals with motorcycle endorsements. The department estimates about 16,000 motorcycle operators do not have a valid license endorsement.
- In 2004, 72 motorcyclists were killed in accidents, and fatalities have almost doubled over the last four years.
- During the last five years, there are three primary causes or factors that can be cited in two-thirds of all motorcycle fatalities—speed, impairment, and lane errors.
- More than one-third of the riders involved in fatal accidents did not have a Washington motorcycle endorsement. National statistics show nearly one out of every four motorcycle riders in fatal crashes were operating with an invalid license.
- Motorcycle crash involvement is highest in Washington riders age 21 to 40.
- More than 60 percent of all single vehicle motorcycle crashes involved impairment of the motorcycle operator.
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, per vehicle mile, motorcyclists are about 27 times as likely as passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash.
- Males are most often the victim of motorcycle fatalities. Between 1993 and 2003, 384 men and 43 women were killed in motorcycle crashes in Washington.
- County roads have the highest incidence of motorcycle fatalities, followed by state routes and city streets.



Motorcycle Safety Task Force Recommendations

In January 2006, DOL invited key members of the motorcycle community to meet with state public safety officials to determine the primary causes of motorcycle accidents and develop recommendations to reduce them.

Recommendations included:

- Increased training opportunities for riders.
- Improvements to the current curriculum, including evaluation and possible adoption of different curriculum.
- Increase public awareness of the requirement for all motorcyclists to have a motorcycle endorsement.
- Promote motorcycle safety statewide through public information campaigns in partnership with law enforcement and other state agencies.